progress on the implementation of various bilateral economic and development cooperation projects, and reiterated their desire to further deepen and diversify such cooperation.

An Agreement was signed between Indian Oil Corporation and Nepal Oil Corporation for a joint venture regarding construction of an oil pipeline between Raxaul (India) and Amlekhgunj (Nepal).

The other Agreements concluded during the visit were Agreement between Bureau of Indian Standards and Nepal Bureau of Standards and Metrology, as first step towards mutual recognition of certification systems, Agreement on Cooperation in the field of Culture and Sports and memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in the field of Weather Forecasting.

Enactment of Law regarding crimes in SEZs

†781. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are going to enact a special law regarding crimes committed in Special Economic Zones;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether special courts would be constituted for the same?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Proposal to set up and International Trade Promotion Centre at Bangalore

782. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry is planning to establish an International Trade Promotion Centre at Bangalore, similar to Pragati Maidan of Delhi;

(b) if so, the details of the project and the shares of the State Government in the project;

(c) whether other cities has also been planned for similar project; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) An international centre on the lines of Pragati Maidan, New Delhi has been set up in the White field area of Bangalore. The Centre, namely Karnataka Trade Promotion Organisation (KTPO), is a Joint Venture of India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO) and Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board (KIADB) under section 25 of the Companies Act, 1956. ITPO and KIADB hold 51% and 49% shares respectively in this joint venture.

(c) and (d) A similar centre namely Tamilnadu Trade Promotion Organisation (TNTPO) has been set up at Chennai as a joint venture of India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO) and Tamilnadu Industrial Development Corporation (TIDCO). Other centres/projects are also planned at Kolkata and Guwahati.

Suggestions of experts on Intellectual Property Rights

783. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that experts on Intellectual Property Rights urged the Government of India to have separate courts to deal with issues connected with patents and intellectual property rights in the light of the new patent regime invoked from 1st January, 2005;

(b) if so, the details of the request made by experts;

(c) whether any action has been initiated in this direction by the Government of India;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) to (e) In the new patent regime, effective from 1st January, 2005, there is no proposal to set up special courts to deal with issues connected with patents and intellectual property rights. However, Government has set up an Intellectual Property Appellate Board in view of the specialised nature of work. The Board is an appellate forum against orders of the Registrar of Trade Marks and also the Registrar of Geographical Indications. Its jurisdiction is further proposed to be extended to the decisions of the Controller of Patents under the Indian patent law.